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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A self locking elevator brake system comprising:

an elevator drive brake element rotatable between a brake reset position and a brake released position;

a handle attached to said brake element for moving between a locked position wherein said brake element is in said brake reset position and an unlocked position wherein said brake element is in said brake released position; and

a selectively operated locking means for maintaining said handle in said locked position, said locking means automatically locking said handle in said locked position upon engagement by said handle, said locking means including a recess for receiving said handle and a safety switch contact mounted in said recess and actuated by engagement with said handle in said locked position.

2. (Original) The self locking elevator brake system as defined in Claim 1 wherein said handle has a latch receiving aperture formed therein and said locking means includes a latching plunger releasably engaging said latch receiving aperture when said handle is in said locked position.

3. (Original) The self locking elevator brake system as defined in Claim 1 wherein said handle includes an elongate arm having an end affixed to said brake element.

4. (Original) The self locking elevator brake system as defined in Claim 3 wherein said locking means includes a latching plunger and said elongate arm includes an aperture for receiving said latching plunger.

5. (Original) The self locking elevator brake system as defined in Claim 4 wherein said arm has a leading edge portion for actuating said latching plunger.

6. (Original) The self locking elevator brake system as defined in Claim 5 wherein said leading edge has a rounded contour for contacting said latching plunger.

7. (Original) The self locking elevator brake system as defined in Claim 1 wherein said locking means includes a key actuated lock cylinder for selectively releasing said handle from said locked position.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A self locking elevator brake system comprising:

an elevator drive brake element rotatable between a brake reset position and a brake released position;

a handle attached to said brake element for moving between a locked position wherein said brake element is in said brake reset position and an unlocked position wherein said brake element is in said brake released position, said handle having a latch receiving aperture formed therein; and

a selectively operated locking means for maintaining said handle in said locked position, said locking means including a latching plunger releasably engaging said latch receiving aperture when said handle is in said locked position, said latching plunger automatically locking said handle in said locked position upon engagement by said handle, said locking means including a recess for receiving said handle and a safety switch contact mounted in said recess and actuated by engagement with said handle in said locked position.

10. (Original) The self locking elevator brake system as defined in Claim 9 wherein said handle includes an elongate arm having an end affixed to said brake element.

11. (Original) The self locking elevator brake system as defined in Claim 10 wherein said arm has a leading edge portion with a rounded contour for contacting and actuating said latching plunger.

12. (Original) The self locking elevator brake system as defined in Claim 9 wherein said locking means includes a key actuated lock cylinder for selectively releasing said handle from said locked position.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) A self locking elevator brake system comprising:

an elevator drive brake element rotatable between a brake reset position and a brake released position;

a handle attached to said brake element for moving between a locked position wherein said brake element is in said brake reset position and an unlocked position wherein said brake element is in said brake released position, said handle having a latch receiving aperture formed therein; and

a selectively operated locking means for maintaining said handle in said locked position, said locking means including a housing, a latching plunger mounted in said housing and releasably engaging said latch receiving aperture when said handle is in said locked position, said latching plunger automatically locking said handle in said locked position upon engagement by said handle, and a safety switch contact mounted in said housing and actuated by engagement with said handle in said locked position, said latching plunger being positioned between said handle in said reset position and said safety switch contact.